

DALLAS NEWS (TEXAS)

2 July 1978

# Raza Unida chief says papers show harassment by FBI, CIA

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CRYSTAL CITY, Texas — The FBI and the CIA were once highly interested in La Raza Unida Party until the agencies got their hands slapped for unauthorized snooping into domestic affairs, according to the party's national president, Jose Angel Gutierrez.

Gutierrez has been using the Freedom of Information Act for more than two years to document federal interest in Mexican-American political activities in South Texas.

The muscular, 33-year-old Zavala County judge said he has obtained more than 3,000 documents pertaining to his party and himself. A few of them are slip-ups that should not have been released, he added.

Gutierrez, who holds a doctor of political science degree from the University of Texas, said he is disturbed because, he contends, the files show a pattern of domestic surveillance that may be continuing without due cause. It is tantamount to harassment, he said, because other political parties apparently are not subject to the same close scrutiny.

"THEY'RE NO LONGER trying to catch criminals. They're trying to subvert political expression. That's obvious," said Gutierrez, who founded the party and supervised its takeover of political positions in Zavala County.

Gutierrez maintains that government agencies apparently are still keeping tabs on him and his group under the guise of "trying to check for the propensity to violence."

Gutierrez said La Raza Unida may be interested in filing a lawsuit to determine whether any intelligence agencies are responsible for political disruption, failures and even some deaths of party members.

The party's past gubernatorial candidate, Ramsey Muniz, and U.S. Senate candidate Flores Amaya have been convicted of drug-related conspiracies.

"I think they were encouraged to fall into entrapment. I can't believe they deliberately, willingly and knowingly decided to get into the dope business," the judge said.

GUTIERREZ SAID he believes government intelligence agencies also might have some knowledge about:

- Ramon Perez, brother of a Webb County party organizer, whose body was found floating in the Rio Grande in 1972.

- Ricardo Falcon, a party delegate, shot to death while traveling through New Mexico to La Raza Unida's national convention in El Paso in 1972.

- Frank R. Anaya, a minority affairs counselor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, who was found shot to death and with needle marks on his arms in Juarez during the 1972 convention.

Most of the four boxes of files Gutierrez has gathered are dated in 1972 or before.

credit the party. You're harassed so you defend yourself and allocate time to rear guard actions rather than going out and organizing voters."

Since the party started as an outgrowth of a youth organization in 1970, it has managed to produce 80,000 to 90,000 votes during major state elections. But Gutierrez, who owns a beer distributorship in Crystal City, said bad publicity outside Zavala County has given La Raza Unida a "shaky" image everywhere except in deep South Texas.

THE UNIVERSITY of Texas has proposed to purchase the intelligence files from the party as well as other documents and tapes that chart La Raza Unida's growth as a political force and Gutierrez' success at becoming one of the first politically visible Mexican-Americans in the state.

Robert Urzura, chief librarian for the school's Mexican-American Library Project, said last week Gutierrez had agreed to provide copies of the intelligence agencies' records for \$500.

But Gutierrez said he has told the University of Texas twice he is not interested in selling the files to the university.

"We may soon be in the business of suing the FBI and CIA, and we're not in the business of making documents available to the University of Texas," Gutierrez added.

He said there was an agreement pending to make available to the university other documents dealing with the party's origin and growth.

A 1971 CIA memo using the code name "Chaos" noted that 38 foreign students studying at the International University in Mexico City "were part of Cesar Chavez's Farm Workers Union and partly from Partial Raza Unida."

The memo pointed out, "If a student requests a course not provided for, a leftist teacher is sought to give that course."

THE CHAOS MEMO also noted, "Marxism is not taught as a specific subject, but 'social studies' offers ample opportunity to include Marxist studies."

Another memo, which originated as a political perspective note from the American embassy in Mexico City, noted that a Mexican news reporter had interviewed Gutierrez about his position on illegal aliens crossing the Texas border. The memo contains comments about the reporter's opinions, apparently gleaned by embassy staffers.

Tougher domestic security investigation guidelines were established by the U.S. attorney general's office in 1976.

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Under present guidelines, investigations will be conducted by the FBI only when activities involve force or violence or an attempt to overthrow the government; interfere with the activities of a foreign government; impair the federal government to influence policies, or a state government to influence interstate commerce; or deprive persons of their civil rights.

**GUTIERREZ CLAIMS** he also has obtained a 1978 memo from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration that strongly associates him with known drug dealers in South Texas.

"I have a lot of supporters who are dope dealers. Therefore I'm involved in dope. Now that's a heck of a jump," he said.

"I believe there's a concentrated effort to dis-

Chicanos:

*Raza Unida to sue U.S.*

The La Raza Unida Party of Texas unanimously decided at its convention to sue the federal government for its harassment and illegal surveillance of the Chicano party.

Zavala County Judge Jose Angel Gutierrez told the convention—held outside San Antonio Sept. 18-19—that recently obtained FBI and CIA files confirm there is “a deliberate, conscious, planned effort to destroy the partido.”

Gutierrez, a founder of the Crystal City Raza Unida Party, recently obtained under the Freedom of Information Act 100 pages of documents from the two agencies.

“These people [the FBI and CIA] are watching us,” Gutierrez declared. “These people are keeping tabs on us—not with any good intention to protect our safety and security, but to deliberately destroy us.”

Gutierrez cited examples of developments within the party since 1970 that pointed to the workings of the FBI and CIA.

Two Raza Unida activists had been killed and a number of party people had suddenly lost their jobs. Furthermore, he said, there have been numerous cases of police victimization. Most recently, Ignacio “Nacho” Perez, a Raza Unida member, was arrested in August on charges of “harboring” an “illegal alien”—undocumented worker.